Budgetary cuts for Deptt. of Family Welfare

1894. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the budgetary cuts for nearly Rs. 160 crores for the Department of Family Welfare in 2004-2005 will affect setting up of comprehensive primary health care services at the grassroots level for rural family welfare services;

(b) whether it is also a fact that while nearly Rs. 160 crores has been deducted from these heads, Government' have raised the assistance for the programme on immunization and-eradication of Polio by Rs. 196 crores; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) It is a fact that less allocation was made for primary healthcare services during 2004-05. The scheme-wise allocation was done on the basis of projected requirement of funds under different schemes within the total allocation approved by Planning Commission. The cut is allocation will not affect the primary healthcare services at the grassroot level because any excess expenditure incurred by the States over the grants released by the Government is fully reimbursed in the form of Arrears' on submission of Audited Statement of Expenditure.

Special Railway Safety Fund

1895. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) created;

(b) the amount of money allotted to this Fund; and

(c) how far the SRSF has been utilised since its creation till today?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIR. VELU): (a) and (b) Anon-lapsable 'Special Railway Safety Fund' (SRSF) of Rs. 17000/- crores has been set up *w.e.f.* 1.10.2001 to wipe out the arrears in renewal/replacement of over-aged assets such as track,